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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHWN #0746 1231851  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 031851Z MAY 06  
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2388  
INFO RUCNCOM/EC CARICOM COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 2487  
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL PRIORITY  
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J5 MIAMI FL PRIORITY  
RUEHCV/USDAO CARACAS VE PRIORITY  
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA PRIORITY 0049

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 000746

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OTTAWA FOR ECON SECTION  
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/13/2016  
TAGS: [ETRD](#) [ETTC](#) [PREL](#) [CU](#) [BB](#) [XL](#)  
SUBJECT: BARBADOS AND CUBA - LIBERTAD ACT REVIEW

REF: A. SECSTATE 57782  
    [1](#)B. BRIDGETOWN 637  
    [1](#)C. 05 BRIDGETOWN 2446  
    [1](#)D. 05 BRIDGETOWN 1954  
    [1](#)E. 04 BRIDGETOWN 2747

Classified By: DCM Mary Ellen T. Gilroy for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

(C) The five questions in Ref A are answered below, in a Q  
and A format.

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Investments  
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Q1 - What is the nature of investments (and names, if known)  
that host country businesses have in Cuba?

A1 - The Canadian energy company Sherritt ([www.sherritt.com](http://www.sherritt.com))  
has set up two offshore companies in Barbados that it likely  
uses as a platform for investments in Cuba (Ref E). The  
significant tax savings Canadian companies enjoy in Barbados,  
coupled with Barbados' tax and investment treaties with Cuba,  
mean there may be other Canadian companies using offshore  
subsidiaries in Barbados to enter the Cuban market.

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Trade Agreements  
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Q2 - Are there any bilateral trade agreements between host  
country and Cuba?

A2 - Yes. Barbados has active bilateral tax and investment  
treaties with Cuba. In addition, CARICOM has a trade  
agreement with Cuba that Barbados recently ratified in  
parliament (Ref B, para. 13).

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Exchange Programs  
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Q3 - Are there any exchange programs between host country and  
Cuba, including but not limited to: scholarships for host  
country nationals to study in Cuba; Cuban-paid medical travel  
for host country nationals; and Cuban doctors working in host  
country?

A3 - Yes. Barbados is the recipient of Cuban scholarships  
and Cuban-paid medical travel for Barbadians in need of eye

surgery (Ref D). There is no wide-scale program to utilize Cuban doctors in the local health care system. In addition to official exchange programs, there are exchanges at the NGO level. For example, on April 11 a Barbados labor union hosted a dozen Cubans visiting Barbados from two Cuban organizations, the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People and the Caribbean Association of Cuba.

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Democracy and Human Rights  
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Q4 - Has the host country, in Post's opinion, worked to promote the advancement of democracy and human rights in Cuba?

Q4 - No. Barbados has done nothing to advance democracy and human rights in Cuba.

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High-Level Visits  
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Q5 - Have there been any high-level diplomatic visits between Cuba and host country in the past six months?

A5 - Yes. Fidel Castro visited Barbados December 7-9, 2005, for the triennial CARICOM/Cuba Summit (Ref C).

GILROY